

REMARKS

This Amendment, submitted in response to the non-final Office Action dated January 15, 2003, is believed to be fully responsive to the points of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants thank the Examiner for reviewing the Supplemental IDS received October 7, 2002, as evidenced by the initialed PTO Form 1449. However, Applicants wish to note that several other IDS's have been submitted for the pending application and are dated (1) May 3, 2002, (2) October 2, 2003, and December 12 2003. The Examiner is kindly requested to return initialed copies of the respective PTO Forms 1449 for these IDS's.

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-18, 21-24, and 26-30 are pending. Claims 2, 8, 19, 20, 25, and 31 are cancelled above. Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 11-13, 15, 18, 21, 24, 26, 28, and 30 are amended. No new matter has been added by the amendments.

Claims 4, 9 and 10 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are definite. Regarding Claim 4, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 4 provides antecedent basis for "said capacitance enhancing layer," in particular Claim 4 recites "said capacitive coupling sensor further includes *a capacitance enhancing layer*." (Emphasis added.) Regarding Claim 9, Applicants note that the first and second sets of wires are distinct. See, for example, elements 50 and 54 in FIG. 9. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5, 6-8, 11-14, 18, 20, 24, 28, 29, and 30 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over US Patent Application No. 2003/0151412. Claim 27 has been allowed. The Examiner indicated that Claims 4, 9 and 10 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, and to be in independent form. The Examiner further indicated that Claims 2, 3, 15-17, 19, 20, 24 and 31 contain allowable subject matter.

1. Claims 1, 3 and 4:

The Examiner indicated that original Claim 2 contains allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include the additional recitations of original Claim

2. Claims 3 and 4 depend from amended Claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 3 and 4 are in condition for allowance.

2. Claims 5-7 and 11-14:

Claim 5 has been amended to more clearly recite the invention and has been rewritten in independent form. Claims 11-13 have been amended to depend from Claim 5. Claim 5 recites a monitoring system that includes at least one partial discharge (PD) sensor, which is configured to monitor a component of an aircraft wiring system and to acquire a monitoring signal. The PD sensor is a high frequency current transformer (HFCT) sensor encompassing the component, and the HFCT sensor includes a number of conductive leads formed on a substrate and a cap covering the leads and the substrate.

Gregory is directed to a PD test link and system to detect PD of a power cable. (Abstract) As noted on page 3 of the Office Action, Gregory does not disclose a monitoring system that includes at least one PD sensor, which is configured to monitor a component of an aircraft wiring system, as recited by Claim 5. Nor does Gregory disclose a HFCT sensor that includes a number of conductive leads formed on a substrate and a cap covering the leads and the substrate, as recited by amended Claim 5. In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 5 is patentably distinguishable over the cited art. Further, as Claims 6, 7 and 11-14 depend from Claim 5, these claims are also patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least these reasons. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of Claims 5-7 and 11-14 be withdrawn.

3. Claims 9 and 10:

The Examiner indicated that original Claim 9 contains allowable subject matter. Claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form. Claim 10 depends from Claim 9. In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 9 and 10 are in condition for allowance.

4. Claims 15, 16 and 17:

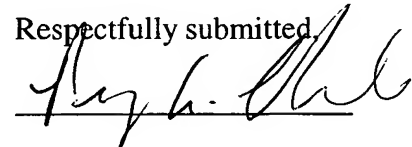
The Examiner indicated that original Claim 15 contains allowable subject matter. Claim 15 has been rewritten in independent form. Claims 16 and 17 depend from Claim

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

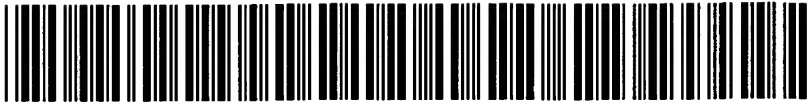
Should the Examiner believe that anything further is needed to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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